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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/396,054	09/15/1999	YOSHIHITO ISHIBASHI	450100-02090	6914
20999	7590	10/13/2005	EXAMINER	
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG			ABEL JALIL, NEVEEN	
745 FIFTH AVENUE- 10TH FL.				
NEW YORK, NY 10151			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2165	

DATE MAILED: 10/13/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/396,054	ISHIBASHI, YOSHIHITO	
	Examiner Neveen Abel-Jalil	Art Unit 2165	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 July 2005.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-41 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-41 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 29-July-2005 has been entered.

2. The amendment filed on 29-July-2005 has been received and entered. Claims 1-41 are now pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-15, and 19-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saito (U.S. Patent No. 6,741,991 B2) in view of Lang (U.S. Patent No. 5,191,611).

As to claim 1, Saito discloses a content management method for a data storage provided with a plurality of content storing means, comprising the steps of:

storing a content key encrypted with a first storage key in a first content storing means, and storing along with said content key encrypted with the first storage key a content encrypted with the content key (See Saito column 7, lines 8-15);

decrypting the encrypted content key with the first storage key (See Saito column 7, lines 16-44); and

encrypting the content key obtained by the above decryption with a newly generated second storage key (See Saito column 7, lines 16-44); and

storing the content key encrypted with the second storage key along with the encrypted content in a second content storing means (See Saito column 7, lines 50-67).

Saito does not teach re-encrypting the content key using a user storage key and storing the content data to an external storage medium.

Lang teaches re-encrypting the content key using a user storage key and storing the content data to an external storage medium (See Lang column 11, lines 33-67, also see Lang column 12, lines 4-22).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Saito to include re-encrypting the content key using a user storage key and storing the content data to an external storage medium.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Saito by the teaching of Lang to include re-encrypting the content key using a user storage key and storing the content data to an external storage medium because it provides protection and security against unauthorized access (See Lang column 1, lines 60-68).

As to claim 2, Saito as modified discloses wherein the second storage key is generated based on a random number (See Saito column 6, lines 45-48).

As to claim 3, Saito as modified discloses wherein the content key obtained by the decryption is encrypted with identification information of the second content storing means and stored into the second content storing means (See Saito column 6, lines 49-67).

As to claim 4, Saito as modified discloses wherein the content key is encrypted, in the first content storing means, with the first storage key and identification information of the first content storing means, and the content key stored in the first content storing means is decrypted with the first storage key and identification information of the first content storing means (See Saito column 4, lines 30-67).

As to claim 5, Saito as modified discloses wherein the second storage key is generated by a decrypted key generating means provided in the data storage (See Saito column 8, lines 43-67).

As to claim 6, Saito as modified discloses wherein the second storage key is encrypted with a public key for a key management unit for management of the storage keys to generate a third storage key and the third storage key is stored into the second content storing means (See Saito column 10, lines 6-45, also see Saito column 16, lines 39-67).

As to claim 7, Saito as modified discloses wherein the data storage deletes the second storage key depending upon whether the third storage key has been stored in the second content storing means (See Saito column 9, lines 23-49).

As to claim 8, Saito as modified discloses wherein when decrypting the content key stored in the second content storing means, the data storage sends the third storage key to the key management unit; and the key management unit generates a second storage key based on the third storage key while accounting the data service following a predetermined procedure (See Saito column 16, lines 31-67).

As to claim 9, Saito as modified discloses wherein the second storage key is generated by a storage key generating means provided in the key management unit which manages the storage keys; and the key management unit has stored therein the second storage key and the identification information of the second content storing means in which the content key encrypted with the above generated second storage key (See Saito column 11, lines 5-67).

As to claim 10, Saito as modified discloses wherein upon the generation of the second storage key, the key management unit accounts the data service following the predetermined procedure (See Saito column 19, lines 19-55, wherein "accounts" reads on "escrow").

As to claim 11, Saito as modified discloses wherein the key management encrypts the second storage key with the management key to generate a third storage key, and sends the third storage key to the data storage (See Saito column 19, lines 19-55); and
the data storage stores the received third storage key into the second content storing means (See Saito column 19, lines 19-55).

As to claim 12, Saito as modified discloses wherein the data storage deletes the second storage key depending upon whether the third storage key has been stored in the second content storing means (See Saito column 19, lines 45-47, wherein “deletes” reads on “abandoned”).

As to claim 13, Saito as modified discloses wherein the key management unit has stored therein the identification information of the second content storing means in which the content key encrypted with the second storage key (See Saito column 32, lines 40-67, also see Saito column 33, lines 1-21);

the data storage sends, when decrypting the content key stored in the second content storing means, the identification information of the second content storing means to the key management unit (See Saito column 32, lines 40-67, also see Saito column 33, lines 1-21); and

the key management unit generates a second storage key based on the result of comparison between the identification information of the second content storing means, send from the data storage, and the identification information of the second content storing means, held in the key management unit itself, while accounting the data service following the

predetermined procedure (See Saito column 32, lines 40-67, also see Saito column 33, lines 1-21).

As to claim 14, Saito as modified discloses wherein the second content storing means has stored therein the identification information of the data storage (See Saito column 6, lines 40-56).

As to claim 15, Saito as modified discloses wherein the data storage starts decrypting the content key stored in the second content storing means depending upon the result of an inspection of the identification information of the data storage, stored in the second content storing means (See Saito column 10, lines 10-45).

As to claim 19, Saito as modified discloses wherein the content key stored in the first content storing means is stored along with the identification information of the first content storing means into the second content storing means (See Saito column 6, lines 30-67);

the identification information stored in the second content storing means is stored into the data storage when the content key stored in the second content storing means is decrypted (See Saito column 6, lines 30-67); and

the data storage makes, when a request is made to decrypt the content key in the first content storing means, an error process based on the result of comparison between the identification information of the first content storing means in consideration and the identification information of the second content storing means (See Saito column 7, lines 1-67).

As to claim 20, Saito discloses a content storage system, comprising:

a first content storing means having stored therein a content key encrypted with a first storage key and a content encrypted with the content key (See Saito column 12, lines 1-65, also see Saito column 11, lines 31-40);

means for decrypting key data (See Saito column 10, lines 57-67);

means for encrypting key data (See Saito column 5, lines 49-52);

means for generating a first storage key (See Saito column 6, lines 57-65, also see Saito column 7, lines 16-44);

means for generating a second storage key (See Saito column 7, lines 16-44);

a second content storing means for storing an encrypted content key obtained by encrypting, in the encrypting means, the content key obtained by decryption with the first storage key in the decrypting means, using the second storage key generated by the storage key generating means, and the encrypted content (See Saito column 12, lines 1-65); and

means for storing the storage keys (See Saito column 12, lines 1-18).

Saito does not teach re-encrypting the content key using a user storage key and storing the content data to an external storage medium.

Lang teaches re-encrypting the content key using a user storage key and storing the content data to an external storage medium (See Lang column 11, lines 33-67, also see Lang column 12, lines 4-22).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Saito to include re-encrypting the content key using a user storage key and storing the content data to an external storage medium.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Saito by the teaching of Lang to include re-encrypting the content key using a user storage key and storing the content data to an external storage medium because it provides protection and security against unauthorized access (See Lang column 1, lines 60-66).

As to claim 21, Saito as modified discloses wherein the storage key storing means generates the second storage key by means of a random number generator (See Saito column 6, lines 44-48).

As to claim 22, Saito as modified discloses wherein a content key obtained by encrypting, in the encrypting means, the content key obtained by the decryption in the decrypting means, with the first storage key and identification information of the second content storing means, is stored in the second content storing means (See Saito column 6, lines 49-67, and see Saito column 7, lines 1-67).

As to claim 23, Saito as modified discloses wherein the content key is encrypted, in the first content storing means, with the first storage key and identification information of the first content storing means; and

the content key stored in the first content storing means is decrypted with the first storage key and identification information of the first content storing means (See Saito column 6, lines 49-67, and see Saito column 7, lines 1-67).

As to claim 24, Saito as modified discloses wherein the first content storing means, decrypting means, encrypting means, second content storing means, storage key storing means and storage key generating means form together a data storage (See Saito column 30, lines 16-48); and

further comprising a key management unit which manages the storage keys of the data storage (See Saito column 10, lines 6-56).

As to claim 25, Saito as modified discloses wherein the data storage is a data receiver which receives a content encrypted and sent from a data transmitter (See Saito column 5, lines 13-40).

As to claim 26, Saito as modified discloses comprising means for storing the public key of the key management unit; and wherein the second content storing means has stored therein the second storage key along with a third storage key obtained by encrypting the second storage key with the public key (See Saito column 22, lines 52-67, also see Saito column 23, lines 1-5).

As to claim 27, Saito as modified discloses wherein the data storage deletes the second storage key depending upon whether the third storage key is stored in the second content storing means (See Saito column 19, lines 45-47, wherein “deletes” reads on “abandoned”).

As to claim 28, Saito as modified discloses wherein when decrypting the content key stored in the second content storing means, the data storage sends the third storage key to the key management unit (See Saito column 19, lines 33-47); and

the key management unit sends a second storage key generated based on the third storage key to the data transmitter while accounting the data service following a predetermined procedure (See Saito column 21, lines 6-28).

As to claim 29, Saito as modified discloses wherein the second content storing means has stored therein the identification information of the data storage (See Saito column 6, lines 32-67, and see Saito column 10, lines 10-31).

As to claim 30, Saito as modified discloses wherein the data storage starts decrypting the content key stored in the second content storing means depending on the result of inspection of the identification information of the data storage, stored in the second content storing means (See Saito column 22, lines 5-51).

As to claim 31, Saito as modified discloses wherein the first content storing means, decrypting means, encrypting means, second content storing means and storage key storing means form together a data storage (See Saito column 22, lines 20-50); and comprising the storage key generating means and further a key management unit which manages the storage keys of the data storage (See Saito column 22, lines 5-20).

As to claim 32, Saito as modified discloses wherein the data storage is a data receiver which receives a content encrypted and sent from a data transmitter (See Saito column 5, lines 13-40).

As to claim 33, Saito as modified discloses wherein the key management unit comprises an identification information storing means in which the storage key generated by the key management unit and the identification information of the content storing means in which the content key encrypted with the generated storage key (See Saito column 24, lines 43-55).

As to claim 34, Saito as modified discloses wherein the key management unit accounts the data service following the predetermined procedure depending upon the generation of the storage key (See Saito column 4, lines 16-34).

As to claim 35, Saito as modified discloses wherein the key management unit comprises means for storing storage keys;

the key management unit generates a third storage key by decrypting the second storage key with the storage key and sends it to the data storage (See Saito column 22, lines 52-67); and the data storage stores the third storage key into the second content storing means (See Saito column 23, lines 1-5).

As to claim 36, Saito as modified discloses wherein the data storage deletes the second storage key depending upon whether the third storage key is stored into the second content storing means (See Saito column 7, lines 10-41).

As to claim 37, Saito as modified discloses wherein the key management unit comprises means for storing the second storage key and the identification information of the second content storing means in which the content key encrypted with the second storage key is stored (See Saito column 6, lines 39-67);

the key management unit accounts, when the data storage decrypts the content key, the data service following the predetermined procedure based on the result of comparison (See Saito abstract) between the identification information of the second content storing means, sent from the data storage, and the identification information stored in the identification information storing means (See Saito column 7, lines 37-67).

As to claim 38, Saito discloses wherein the second content storing means has stored therein the identification information of the data storage (See column 7, lines 37-65).

As to claim 39, Saito discloses wherein the data storage starts decrypting the content key stored in the second content storing means (See column 6, lines 45-65).

As to claim 40, Saito as modified discloses wherein the content key obtained by decryption from the second content storing means has added thereto information that the content

key is a one obtained by restoration, as requirement information (See Saito column 13, lines 26-40).

5. Claims 16-18, and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saito (U.S. Patent No. 6,741,991 B2) in view of Lang (U.S. Patent No. 5,191,611) as applied to claims 1-15, and 19-40 above, and further in view of Takashima et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,701,343).

As to claim 16, Saito as modified still does not teach wherein the decrypted content key supplied from the second content storing means has added thereto information that the content key is a one obtained by restoration.

Takashima et al. teaches wherein the decrypted content key supplied from the second content storing means has added thereto information that the content key is a one obtained by restoration (See Takashima et al. column 8, lines 13-65).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have further modified Saito as modified to include wherein the decrypted content key supplied from the second content storing means has added thereto information that the content key is a one obtained by restoration.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have further modified Saito as modified by the teaching of Takashima et al. to include wherein the decrypted content key supplied from the second content storing means has

added thereto information that the content key is a one obtained by restoration because it provides security and consistency.

As to claim 17, Saito as modified discloses wherein when moving the content key having added thereto the information that the content key is a restored one, the data storage makes an error process based on the result of comparison between the content key and a content key stored in a destination to which the content key is to be moved (See Takashima et al. column 15, lines 42-67).

As to claim 18, Saito as modified still does not teach wherein the content key has added thereto frequency information which limits the number of times the content key can be used.

Takashima et al. teaches wherein the content key has added thereto frequency information which limits the number of times the content key can be used (See Takashima et al. column 8, lines 13-65).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have further modified Saito as modified to include wherein the content key has added thereto frequency information which limits the number of times the content key can be used.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have further modified Saito as modified by the teaching of Takashima et al. to include wherein the content key has added thereto frequency information which limits the number of times the content key can be used because it provides security and consistency.

As to claim 41, Saito as modified still does not teach wherein the content key has added thereto frequency information which limits the number of times the content key can be used.

Takashima et al. teaches wherein the content key has added thereto frequency information which limits the number of times the content key can be used (See Takashima et al. column 8, lines 13-65).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have further modified Saito as modified to include wherein the content key has added thereto frequency information which limits the number of times the content key can be used.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have further modified Saito as modified by the teaching of Takashima et al. to include wherein the content key has added thereto frequency information which limits the number of times the content key can be used because it provides security and consistency.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-41 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

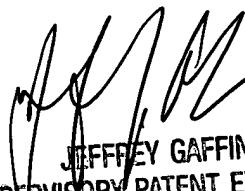
Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Neveen Abel-Jalil whose telephone number is 571-272-4074. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM-5: 30PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey A. Gaffin can be reached on 571-272-4146. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Neveen Abel-Jalil
October 11, 2005



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